



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

PO Box 116, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
Phone: 573/526-9100 Fax: 573/634-7966
E-mail: mosema@mail.state.mo.us



Situation Report

Dam Failure Taum Sauk Hydroelectric Plant

December 15, 2005 9:00 a.m.

Recovery operations continue in Reynolds County in the aftermath of the collapse of the upper reservoir of the Taum Sauk Hydroelectric Plant. The Chief Executive Officer of AmerenUE reported late yesterday, that preliminary findings indicated that an automatic pumping system pushed too much water into the impoundment. The water overflowed the top of the dam, and weakened the structure until about 600 feet of the Northwest wall collapsed allowing the water to escape down the west side of Proffit Mountain into Johnsons Shut-In State Park and the east fork of the Black River.

The breach in the dam was reported by AmerenUE as starting at 5:24 a.m. 14 December 2005 and most of the reservoir drained between 5:30 a.m. and 5:40 a.m. The lower reservoir was overtopped by the flow of the east fork of the Black River. This dam is designed to be overtopped. Water levels in the lower reservoir have returned to normal levels.

Governor Blunt and key aides surveyed the damage yesterday afternoon to assure that the State response was quick and sufficient to meet the needs of those who were affected by this disaster.

City of Lesterville had evacuated 100-150 residents as a precaution, but the lower reservoir held a majority of the water from the upper reservoir. The Black River rose six to eight feet but there was no flooding. SEMA received a call at 5:45 p.m. 14 Dec 2005 from Reynolds County Fire Service to report that Lesterville residents were allowed to return to their homes.

As a safety precaution, AmerenUE pumped the remaining water out of the upper reservoir to prevent any further release of water.

Highway Patrol:

Missouri Highway Patrol is standing by for further requests of assistance.

Missouri Water Patrol:

Missouri Water Patrol is standing by for further requests of assistance.

Missouri Army National Guard:

Missouri National Guard is standing by for further requests of assistance.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources:

Personnel from DNR Dam Safety, Ameren UE, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and Montgomery, Watson and Harza Engineering (AmerenUE's consultant) will be doing a inspection this morning to attempt to determine that stability of the upper reservoir dam and to recommend any temporary to secure the structure. They will attempt to confirm the preliminary findings outlined in yesterday's press conference by Ameren UE CEO Gary Rainwater.

DNR Environmental Emergency Response remains on-scene to assist locals with any hazardous materials response.

DNR Parks is still reviewing the damages to its property in Johnson Shut-ins State Park which includes the Superintendent's residence, water treatment facility, park store and campgrounds. Debris removal is continuing to allow more of the park to be viewed for damages.

The Park Superintendent suffered from cuts around the legs from debris and hypothermia. He and his family were taken to Advanced Healthcare Medical Center in Ellington, Missouri. The three children were then taken by ambulance and life-flight helicopter to Cardinal Glennon Hospital where they remain this morning. The parents are expected to go to St. Louis today to be with their children. The papers report that the Maternal Grandmother was confident that they all would recover.

Missouri Department of Conservation:

Area conservation agent is assisting local authorities in their response.

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services:

Department of Health is standing by for further requests of assistance.

Missouri Department of Transportation:

MoDOT reopened Highway N. MoDOT crews are repairing and cleaning up debris from Highway shoulders. MoDOT is assisting MoDNR-State Parks in cleaning up debris on the access roads in and out of Johnsons Shut-in State Park.

Missouri Department of Agriculture:

Department of Agriculture is standing by for further requests of assistance.

Voluntary Agencies:

Salvation Army: No personnel on-site. They continue monitor the situation in case of further requests for assistance.

Amercian Red Cross: No shelters remain open. St. Louis Red Cross has a crisis counseling team ready to support affected families.

Reynolds County Citizen Corps: Reynolds County Health Department has requested that anyone who wants additional information on people or needs assistance to call 573-648-2498 during business hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

AmerenUE Company: AmerenUE spokesperson reports that the City of Lesterville will be holding an after-action critique at the Reynolds County Volunteer Fire house at 10:00 a.m. this morning. The plant has stopped draining the remaining water in the upper reservoir for now. They are focusing on reducing the level in the lower reservoir, to ensure that when the upper reservoir is fully drained the lower reservoir will hold it. Current level in the lower reservoir is 749 ft; Ameren wants to reduce the level to 745 ft before they drain additional water from the upper reservoir. The top of the lower dam is 750 ft. They anticipate they'll hit their target by the end of the day.

AmerenUE reports that the other area of concern is a possible debris wall that may have formed on the Black River north of the plant near Johnson Shut-Ins State Park. Ameren hopes to get up in the air this morning to confirm whether this debris wall exists. More info should be available later today.

Federal Agencies:

FEMA – Homeland Security officials are being kept up-to-date by State staff.

FAA – Has issued a Notice to Air Men (NOTAM) to restrict aircraft from flying over the scene. That restriction is to be lifted later today.

State Emergency Management Agency:

SEMA has resumed normal operations and is monitoring the situation for any additional requests for assistance. Area Coordinators from Cape Girardeau and Jefferson City are on-scene to assist local efforts in recovery. The damages from this structural failure are still being assessed. However, initial damage reports do not support a request for Federal assistance for infrastructure or individuals. The reported damages were primarily to private (AmerenUE) facilities and State property.

Points of Contact: To contact SEMA call 573-526-9100 (7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. M-F).
For off-hours please contact the SEMA Duty Officer at 573-751-2748.